

Westminster Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

WPD CASE: 11-03267

Pitbull Terrorizes Family and Injures Their Dog

Location: 14200 block of Paul Way, Westminster

Westminster, CA: This morning at just before 7:00 a.m., WPD received a 911 call from a frantic woman claiming a neighborhood pit bull had entered her home and attacked her dog as they returned from a walk. The woman barricaded herself and her three children in the bathroom while the pitbull continued to wander the home.

The woman had been walking her small dog in her neighborhood when, without warning, a pitbull began charging at her. The woman ran with her dog to her residence; however, as they arrived at the front door the pitbull attacked her dog. The attack continued into the woman's residence where her three children witnessed the incident. Fearing for their safety, the mother had her children barricade themselves in their rooms and called 9-1-1.

Within minutes of the call, officers were on-scene. They quickly approached the residence and were attempting to remove two small children out of the house through a window. Almost immediately they were confronted by the pit bull who aggressively charged out of the house at officers. One officer attempted to use a less lethal device to subdue the dog but was unsuccessful. The second officer fired two shots, but did not hit the dog. The pitbull retreated back into the home. Officers were able to safely evacuate the two children and enter the house to insure the rest of the family members were safe. Officers located the remaining family members who had safely hidden in a bathroom.

Officers contained the dog in an area away from the family until Animal Control could respond a short time later. Animal Control officers were able to subdue the dog without further incident. The pit bull was transported to the Humane Society where it will be held for further investigation.

No citizens or police officers were injured. The family's Pug/Chihuahua was seriously injured and was transported to a nearby animal hospital. WPD detectives are on-scene to assist with identifying the pit bull owner and investigate any potential criminal charges.

"The Westminster Police Department urges pet owners to be responsible for their pets. This tragic situation was 100% avoidable", said Corporal Cameron Knauerhaze.

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<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/>